

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH KEYS

### KEY NO. 2 - HAVING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

In the second of our Christian Growth studies we are looking at the importance of leading a lifestyle of pray. It is so important that we involve God in all of our life and that we do not only wait until we have problems or great needs before we begin to pray. God has a unique plan for every believer's life (**Ephesians 2:10**) and it is so important that we allow Him to guide and direct our steps in life. Prayer must always be relational and never just develop into a daily religious routine. I will now share 7 points in relation to why we need to make prayer an important part of our daily lifestyle (**Points 1-3**) AND how we should pray (**Points 4-7**) To assist Christians in growing in their prayer life, the following points can be studied and meditated upon one at a time on a daily basis over the period of a week. (**One point each day**)

- 1) IT HELPS TO INVOLVE GOD IN ALL THAT WE ARE DOING IN LIFE** (God wants to see every person leading a life that is full of purpose and meaning. God knows what is best for us in every area of our life and His plan for our life. Having a dependence on God is the key to being blessed and prosperous in life). (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**)

**In the book of Proverbs we read,** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

- 2) IT HELPS US NOT TO BE ANXIOUS IN LIFE**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

- 3) IT HELPS US TO REMAIN STRONG WHEN GOING THROUGH TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS** (At times we are confronted with temptations in life as the devil tries to destroy our lives and prevent us from fulfilling God's plan for our life. (**1 Peter 5:8-9**) During these times we need to ask God for His help and strength to overcome the trials and temptations that are coming our way).

**Jesus Himself said to His disciples,** "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (**Matthew 26:41**)

- 4) **WE MUST LEARN TO STAND ON GOD'S PROMISE THAT HE WILL ANSWER ALL OF OUR PRAYERS THAT ARE IN LINE WITH HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE.** IF WE PRAY IN LINE WITH WHAT GOD IS PUTTING ON OUR HEART TO PRAY (BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT), WE WILL PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE.

**The Apostle John wrote,** “*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him*, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, *we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.* (1 John 5:14-15)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

- 5) **HAVING THE BIBLE OPEN WHEN SEEKING GOD FOR ANSWERS AND DIRECTION** (Every day we have needs and decisions to make in life. The choices that we make each day will ultimately determine our destiny in life. Each day we face new challenges which require God's wisdom and direction. God speaks to us through His Word. Praying with God's Word in front of us enables God to speak to us through His Word to give us clear direction in life and to prevent us from stumbling in our Christian walk).

**In the book of Psalms we read,** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

- 6) **PRAYING IN FAITH BELIEVING FOR THE ANSWERED PRAYER** (Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) Without faith it is impossible to please God ... but He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) The bible makes it clear that God is able to do the impossible in our life. It is important that we always pray in faith believing for the answered prayer as we pray)

**Jesus said,** “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” ***“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*** (Mark 11:22-24)

- 7) **BE PERSISTENT IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE.** (Keep praying until you experience the breakthrough in your circumstances. God's timing is always perfect and He knows what is best for us. God's delays and even denials are always for our own good when our lives are totally surrendered to him.) **STUDY Luke 18:1-8, James 5:16-18 and Luke 11:9-13**